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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee

Chairman: Mr. Peter D. **Donigi** (Papua New Guinea)

1. At its 13th meeting, on 20 July 2000, the Special Committee considered pending matters related to its work and took decisions on the agenda items listed below.

Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

2. The General Assembly, by paragraph 6 of its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961, authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. By paragraph 3 (9) of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, the Assembly directed the Committee to continue to hold meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate.

3. In that connection, the Special Committee decided to consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 2001 and, when particulars of such meetings become known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provisions in accordance with established procedure.

Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

4. The Special Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 18 February 2000, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold

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consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice and on the basis of the principle of rotation, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members, who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Chairman will also have consultations with those members of the Committee whose regional group is not represented in the Bureau. The Special Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 2001.

Pattern of conferences

5. The Special Committee noted that, during the year, it had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 54/248 of 23 December 1999. By organizing its programme of work effectively and holding extensive consultations, the Committee had been able to curtail considerably the number of its formal meetings. The Special Committee decided to continue to make optimum and effective use of conference-servicing resources.

6. The Special Committee decided, taking into account the probable workload of the Special Committee for 2001, to consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) *Plenary*

February/March	As required
June/July	Up to 30 meetings (6 to 8 meetings a week)

(b) *Bureau*

February/July	20 meetings

7. It would be understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 2001, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Special Committee would, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, strive to keep its meetings to a minimum, while fulfilling its mandate.

Control and limitation of documentation

8. The Special Committee noted that, during the year, it had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 of 13 December 1984, 51/211 B of 18 December 1996 and 54/248 C of 23 December 1999. The Special Committee, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, decided to continue to streamline its report to the Assembly.

9. By its resolution 50/206 B of 23 December 1995, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim records by summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Special Committee decided to maintain its summary records.

Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

10. The Special Committee decided to continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-fifth session.

International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

11. Noting that the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[1] adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, provided for the holding of seminars alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, and subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-fifth session with regard to the Special Committee recommendation to declare the period 2001 to 2010 as the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and to continue to implement the plan of action, as contained in the annex to resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, to serve as the plan of action of the Second Decade, the Special Committee decided to organize in 2001 a seminar in the Caribbean region, to be attended by representatives of all Non-Self-Governing Territories.

12. The Special Committee decided further to recommend inviting United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of the actions they have taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 and to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-fifth session with regard to the Special Committee's recommendation relating to the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

13. The Special Committee decided to recommend that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended by the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. In that regard, the Special Committee decided to consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate.

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[1] A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1, annex, para. 22 (c).